

Message Text

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41

ACTION SS-25

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R 171325Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8282

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1445

EXDIS

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR SHERER

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E.O. 11652: XOV5

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF ZANTOVSKY

ZANTOVSKY (HEAD SIXTH DEPT MFA) DEPARTS PRAGUE JUNE 17 FOR APPROXIMATELY TEN DAYS IN CANADA (THE LATTER PORTION IN OTTAWA FOR PARTICIPATION IN BILATERAL POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS AT DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL). IT OCCURS TO US THAT DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER INVITING ZANTOVSKY TO STOP BY WASHINGTON EN ROUTE HOME TO DISCUSS US-CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS, IF DEPARTMENT FEELS THERE IS ENOUGH TO DISCUSS TO MAKE SUCH A STOPOVER WORTHWHILE. WITH FORMER AMBASSADOR SPACIL NOW OUT OF THE PICTURE (AND TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE NO SUCCESSOR IN SIGHT IN NEAR FUTURE), AND WITH SECOND-STRING DREW IN CHARGE OF CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, ZANTOVSKY IS PROBABLY THE BEST-INFORMED CZECH ON THE SUBJECT. OUR THOUGHT WAS SIMPLY THAT IF DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION OF US-CZECHOSLOVAK SITUATION IN THE WAKE OF LONG-GRATEL WAS AT A STAGE WHERE SOME INFORMAL SOUNDINGS WITH GOC MIGHT BE USEFUL, ZANTOVSKY'S TRIP MIGHT PRESENT A TIMELY OCCASION. WE REALIZE THAT THIS IDEA MAY BE PREMATURE, SINCE IT WOULD NOT DO TO RAISE FALSE CZECH HOPES THAT WE WERE ONTO
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SOME "SOLUTION." WE DO THINK HOWEVER THAT ZANTOVSKY UNDER-

STANDS US SCENE WELL ENOUGH TO GRASP IDEA OF HIGHLY
INFORMAL SOUNDING JUST TO TEST THE LAY OF THE LAND.

GOC WOULD APPRECIATE SHOW OF CONTINUED INTEREST BY US
SIDE IN AT LEAST DISCUSSING WHERE THINGS STAND, AND
ZANTOVSKY'S RELATIVELY LOW RANK WOULD INSURE THAT NOT
TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE WOULD ATTACH TO SUCH AN INVITATION.
EMBASSY IS NOT ARGUING FOR TGCS PROPOSAL, BUT MERELY
INFORMING DEPARTMENT OF SANTOVSKY'S TRAVEL PLANS IN
CASE DEPARTMENT FEELS SOME SOUNDINGS MIGHT BE HLPFUL AT
THIS TIME.
PERRY

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